

In re: Watte et al
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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Final Official Action of February 1, 2006 (the "Action"). Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 27, 29, 31-36 and 38-68 are allowed.

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103 over various references. Claims 4, 11, 12 and 70 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 4, 9, 10-12, 69 and 70. Such amendments are made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a continuation and/or divisional application directed to the previously presented claims.


Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 27, 29, 31-36 and 38-68 are in condition for allowance as indicated in the Action.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

As noted in the Response filed January 20, 2006, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance includes language generally tracking portions of different ones of the allowed independent claims. Applicants understand that the Examiner has provided generalized comments but that each of the independent claims is patentable in light of the respective recitations contained in those claims.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura M. Kelley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura M. Kelley
Registration No. 48,441



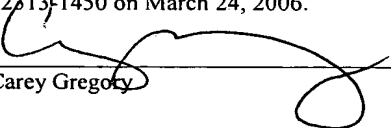
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Carey Gregory